

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 BIB-01 SAB-01 SAJ-01 FEA-01 EB-07 INT-05

AID-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 CU-02 OES-03 ACDA-05 IO-10

/107 W

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P R 111100Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2204

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0552

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: LIBYANS CONDEMN GENEVA CONFERENCE ON EVE OF
KOSYGIN VISIT

REF: TRIPOLI 538

1. SUMMARY: LIBYANS HAVE PUBLICLY RESTATED THEIR REJECTION OF MIDEAST PEACE TALKS IN GENEVA ON EVE OF KOSYGIN'S ARRIVAL IN LIBYA MAY 12 FOR OFFICIAL VISIT, AFTER A MEETING BETWEEN JALLUD AND HEAD OF WILDCAT PALESTINIAN GROUP PFLF/GC. IT APPEARS THAT SOVIETS AND LIBYANS WILL HAVE TO AGREE TO DISAGREE ON SUCH POLITICAL QUESTIONS IF TALKS ARE TO GET ANYWHERE ON OTHER MATTERS. TALKS WILL PROBABLY CENTER ON OIL SALES AND MILITARY QUESTIONS, AND SOVIETS WOULD APPEAR TO BE IN GOOD BARGAINING POSITION IN BOTH AREAS. FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT ARE BEING MADE ONLY AT LAST MINUTE, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND SOVIET EMBASSY SEEMS NERVOUS ABOUT POSSIBLE HITCHES.

IT IS NOT YET CLEAR TO WHAT EXTENT QADHAFI WILL TAKE PART IN TALKS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON EVE OF KOSYGIN VISIT, LIBYANS ARE SETTING STAGE FOR IT IN THEIR OWN WAY. PRESS REPORTS A MEETING BETWEEN JALLUD AND AHMAD JABRIL, HEAD OF EXTREMIST, MILITANT, AND ANTI-PLO PFLP/GC, WHO HAS BEEN IN LIBYA SINCE MAY 6, AND WITH WHOM LIBYANS HAVE LONG HAD CLOSE TIES. A JOINT PFLP/GC-LIBYAN STATEMENT, FIRST OF KIND WE CAN REMEMBER, WAS RELEASED AT END OF JABRIL-JALLUD MEETINGS MAY 10, AND SAYS NOTABLY: "THE POINTS OF VIEW OF THE TWO SIDES WERE IN AGREEMENT ALSO WITH REGARD TO THE CATEGORIC REJECTION OF DIRECT TALKS AT GENEVA, WHICH AIM AT THE FURTHERING OF SUSPICIOUS PLOTS." THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN THIS LINE ON GENEVA FOR LIBYANS, BUT PUBLIC RESTATEMENT OF IT MUST BE EMBARRASSING TO SOVIETS ONLY TWO DAYS BEFORE KOSYGIN IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE. IT IS REMINDER, OF ONE WERE NEEDED, OF HOW DIFFICULT LIBYANS ARE TO DEAL WITH, AND HOW JEALOUS THEY ARE OF THEIR POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS.

3. BESIDES SUCH THORNY POLITICAL ISSUES, WHICH TWO SIDES WILL HAVE TO AGREE TO DISAGREE ON, TALKS WILL CENTER ON SALES OF LIBYAN OIL TO SOVIETS AND MILITARY QUESTIONS. SOVIET COMMERCIAL OFFICER TOLD US THAT HE WAS FURIOUSLY PREPARING BRIEFING PAPERS ON OIL SITUATION, AND THAT EMBASSY WAS TRYING TO GET SOME SORT OF "FINANCIAL AUTHORITY" FROM MOSCOW IN ORDER TO BE IN POSITION TO MAKE PURCHASING COMMITMENTS DURING VISIT. IN VIEW OF STAGNANT LIBYAN PRODUCTION AND FALLING FINANCIAL RESERVES, SOVIETS MAY HAVE WHIP HAND IN THIS AREA. CERTAINLY THEY ARE IN BETTER BARGAINING POSITION THAN WHEN JALLUD VISITED MOSCOW IN MAY 1974, AND THIS MAY HAVE EFFECT ON REST OF TALKS. MILITARY MATTERS WILL OBVIOUSLY BE HIGH ON AGENDA, AND HERE TOO SOVIET ARMS DELIVERIES WOULD APPEAR TO GIVE THEM CONSIDERABLE LEVERAGE OVER LIBYANS IF THEY WANT TO USE IT. WE WOULD EXPECT LIBYANS TO REJECT OUT OF HAND ANY SUGGESTION OF PERMANENT SOVIET MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT HERE, BUT THEY MAY BE COMPELLED TO ACCEPT PRESENCE OF ADDITIONAL SOVIET TECHNICIANS IN VIEW OF SOPHISTICATION OF EQUIPMENT SOVIETS ARE DELIVERING.

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4. WITH VISIT ONLY A FEW DAYS OFF, FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR IT STILL DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN NAILED DOWN. SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICERS WITH WHOM WE SPOKE MAY 8 AT RECEPTION (WHICH NO HIGH LIBYAN OFFICIALS ATT-@2>5+VE*0U/SK!)"XJGI&A%QP9F_K5-U T4 5<J1(##(AQNT,U*K"

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